

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the cell proliferation promoting activity of a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing mammalian test cells which express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and mammalian control cells that do not express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in the presence of a test compound;
- (b) detecting proliferation of the test cells and control cells; and
- (c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation of the test cells and not the control cells.

16 - 61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A method of screening for a compound that inhibits the cell proliferation promoting activity of a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing test cells ~~which express a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and control cells that do not express the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~ in the presence of ~~the a~~ test compound which binds to the protein, or inhibits the expression of the protein, wherein said test cell and said control cell are identical with the exception that the test cell has been transfected with a vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the protein of SEQ ID NO: 2;<sup>1</sup>

- (b) detecting proliferation of the test cells and the control cells; and
  - (c) selecting the test compound that inhibits the proliferation of the test cells and not the control cells
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the test compound inhibiting the expression of the protein is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).